

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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VOL. 10, NO. 5

## *The Family in War*

### NATIONAL CONGRESS RADIO PROGRAM

THE National Congress radio program for 1943, "The Family in War," will go on the air January 16. The new series, although it bears a different title, will continue the story of our old friends Marge and Bill Baxter and their plans and problems as parents of an average American family in wartime. There will be one important difference; each dramatic episode in the lives of the Baxters, instead of being followed

by a discussion with several participants, will be summarized by a single interpreter, the "Voice of the P.T.A."

Local parent-teacher leaders are urgently advised to lose no time in organizing their listening groups. The National Congress hopes also that every state Radio chairman will conduct an evaluation of these broadcasts in local associations and councils throughout the state.

It is important to bear in mind the rebroadcast possibilities of the series. If the hour selected is occupied in some regions by another program, it is suggested that the P.T.A. request the local station to make a transcription and broadcast it at some later time. As usual, of course, this can be done only by a member of the radio chain that presents the broadcasts.

Last year's program, "On the Home Front," was a highly successful one. This year the problems of family living in wartime are more numerous as well as more acute, and "The Family in War" should reach an even higher level of helpfulness. All-out cooperation is requested.

#### FIRST FOUR BROADCASTS 1943 RADIO PROGRAM

*Theme: The Family in War*  
*Time: Saturdays, 2:45-3:00 E. W. T.*  
*Over: NBC Network*

January 16—War Marriages  
January 23—Don't Repeat That Rumor  
January 30—On the Farm Front  
February 6—Can Our Children Face It?

Watch the *National Congress Bulletin* for further information and announcements of programs.

### VICTORY BOOK CAMPAIGN

THE 1943 Victory Book Campaign will open January 5 and continue through March 5. The National Congress is again one of the national organizations sponsoring the drive, which is directed by the USO, the Red Cross, and the American Library Association.

The purpose of the campaign is to collect books for the use of the men in our armed services. It is hoped that the total of 10,000,000 books collected in 1942 will be equaled or surpassed, but emphasis is on the collection of books that are good as to both condition and subject matter. The test suggested for each donor is, "Any book you really want to keep is a good one to give."

### INFANTILE PARALYSIS

THE health of our boys and girls and young people is "one of the front lines of our national defense." Accordingly, the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis will as usual conduct a campaign for funds in commemoration of President Roosevelt's birthday, January 30, 1943. The dimes and dollars of all citizens are needed to further the fight against the disease, in war and peace.



Are you buying war bonds  
and stamps?

Is your kitchen contributing  
its share of fat?

### IN UNION THERE IS LIFE

EVERYBODY knows that "in union there is strength." The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in its challenges to a continual increase of its membership, has emphasized this again and again. The work of the National Congress, growing and developing over an ever-widening range of activities and services, has proved it to the uttermost.

But there is more in union than strength! The power of an organization for good is automatically increased as the membership is multiplied and multiplied again; but the matter goes beyond that. Not only the organization's power for good but *actually its capacity for good* is increased.

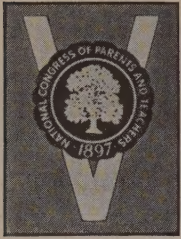
How can this be? It is very simple, after all. Growth is life, and life is expansion. New ideas and ideals, new projects and purposes, infuse any group with perpetual new life; and the parent-teacher association, as it adds new members to its busy and aspiring ranks, will add unto itself new vitality and a refreshment of power.

This organization has been characterized from the outset by just this type of natural, vigorous growth. Taking root in the generous and far-seeing minds of two women who dedicated their lives to the service of children, it spread rapidly from those minds to the minds of others, from the hearts of its Founders to the hearts of millions.

And it has grown, accordingly, not only in membership and power but in breadth of purpose and depth of conviction. It has grown in tolerance and human understanding as it has acted on the principle of entire equality and freedom from prejudice against any race, class, or creed.

This is good growth. This is the kind of growth that must continue if future generations of Americans are to rise to the stature of true citizens of a world democracy. Parents and teachers are the natural guardians and sponsors of such growth, and they are challenged, today as never before, to fulfill its conditions by uniting in service to maintain the way of life that makes it possible.





# ON THE P. T. A. FRONT

## NEWS OF PARENT-TEACHER WARTIME ACTIVITIES IN THE STATES

### PROGRAMS AND ATTENDANCE

ALL over the nation parent-teacher associations are carrying on their scheduled programs, with such adjustments in time and place of meeting as are required by gasoline and tire rationing. In Kansas some curtailment in the number of meetings has been necessary. Several units plan them to coordinate with other community activities.

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A number of groups in Massachusetts are assembling in the afternoon instead of in the evening. Others, like the Warren P.T.A. in Waltham, are holding informal discussions in the homes of members, because the school committee has limited the number of meetings to be held in the school building in winter.

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Gasoline and tire rationing has delayed but not eliminated an interesting community service developed by the parent-teacher association of the West Edgecombe rural consolidated school, located near Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The school district, formed by consolidation of eight small schools, has an area of 900 bus miles and includes 385 school families and 826 school-age children.

The West Edgecombe P.T.A. realized that a single study group could not meet the needs of members living so far apart, so it organized separate groups in nearly all the original school communities in 1941-42. A local chairman was responsible for obtaining home-talent discussion leaders. Three teachers helped with each study group. During the season twenty-one homes were visited and the total attendance was 728.

At the end of the fourth series of meetings all groups held a joint session at the West Edgecombe School. One of the teachers presented a practical nutrition exhibit, showing samples to prove that foods containing all the vitamins essential to good health can be grown on North Carolina farms. A new study group series is now in progress, though its organization was delayed by gasoline and tire rationing.

**Report your wartime service activities to your state president, who will forward them for Bulletin consideration.**

### NEWCOMERS WELCOMED

THE development or expansion of war industries and military and naval encampments has brought large numbers of new citizens almost overnight into many communities. The parent-teacher associations are meeting the challenge by making the newcomers welcome and inviting them to become members of their units.

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In Kansas, P.T.A. members cooperate with local chambers of commerce in calling on new arrivals. They are also helping with housing surveys in defense area towns such as Wichita, Parsons and Kansas City, to ascertain the number of migrant families and their housing needs. Local units in Helena, Montana, are making a special effort to invite families of Fort William Henry Harrison soldiers to their meetings.

### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PARENT-TEACHER associations are busy providing recreation for their own neighborhoods, industrial communities, and men in the armed services, both independently and in cooperation with other organizations.

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Meeting troop trains is a special project of the P.T.A.'s in Dodge City, Kansas, this year. Associations throughout the state are helping in canteens and with USO programs.

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In Massachusetts, parent-teacher associations concentrate on home and neighborhood recreational activities, since most of their members are already participating in more extensive programs organized by the USO, civilian defense committees, and other community groups.

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Recreational training institutes are the special development of the parent-teacher associations in South Dakota. The state war services chairman sent out a release in November listing recreational jobs open to volunteers, suggesting how volunteers could enter these activities, and outlining in some detail the procedure by which a parent-teacher association can set up a training institute. Leaders trained in these classes organize effective recrea-

tional programs for their local units, neighborhood groups, and homes.

★ ★

The North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers held open house at the YMCA-USO club, at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, on Christmas day. Even the best efforts of local units throughout the state could not make it possible to provide a gift for each of the many men stationed at Fort Bragg, but thousands of their gifts were distributed to (a) boys with no family connections; (b) those whose addresses were unknown to their families and friends; and (c) others as far as possible. The Congress served cookies and coffee to its guests and provided Christmas music.

### CIVILIAN IDENTIFICATION

A CIVILIAN identification-tag program has recently been set up by the State Defense Council of Florida, in response to widespread demand by parent-teacher associations, Junior Chambers of Commerce, and other groups.

An identification chairman, serving under the director of the Citizens Service Corps or the local Civilian Defense Council chairman, begins by appointing an identification committee representing the parent-teacher associations, churches, and schools. The committee appoints registrars as needed.

Information to be compiled concerning each registrant includes: name, address, month and year of birth; town in which he resides; name of nearest relative to be notified in case of emergency; town in which relative lives.

The State Defense Council has arranged for production of identification tags of noncritical fire-resistant fibre material. The individual pays five cents per tag, one-half cent of which is retained for the expenses of the local defense council.

The identification committee assigns individual numbers thus: First there is a county identification number. It is followed by a dash and letters indicating the local council and the sequence of its registrants. For example, 5-LA-342 would identify the 342d person registering in the area served by the Lakeland Defense Council in Polk County. Further modification to show the school, or district, or precinct may be used.



# CONGRESS *Publications* SERVICE IN 1942

**T**HE publications program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is both extensive and interesting. The Congress receives five cents per capita of the membership dues. Each year an adequate portion of this income is set aside to provide publications for the use of the membership.

The Congress sends to each of its fifty state branches enough copies of all basic free printed material to allow every local association one copy of each item, plus an additional supply for extension work and distribution to state board members. If still more copies are needed, the state congress may purchase them from the National Office and distribute them at cost or at ceiling prices issued August 1.

Surprise has been expressed that the National Congress is able to make so wide a free distribution and then offer extra copies at such low cost. There are several reasons for this. First, the Congress can get attractive prices because it buys printing in quantity. For instance, sufficient copies of the 1942 *Manual* were ordered that 74,065 could be distributed free this year to the states. Additional copies may be secured for ten cents. No local association could, within its own budget, make a book like the *Manual* available to the group so inexpensively.

The volunteer effort that goes into the preparation of the material is another factor in the wide and low-cost distribution. If the Congress had to do as commercial firms do, pay large fees to authors, it would never be able to give the states and locals so much free material.

Finally, the program of education for thrift in the use of Congress publications has, to a large extent, eliminated waste, promoted thrifty exchange, and brought about increased care in handling.

The beginning of a new year seems a good time to check on what has been done. There follows a statement showing the quantity and variety of publications distributed for the current year, 1942.

The starred items represent general publications considered basic to the development of the parent-teacher program. Such publications are therefore distributed free on a *standard allotment basis*. A standard allotment provides one copy for each P.T.A., plus 100 copies to each state for members of state boards, plus a surplus equal to 15 per cent of the total number of local associations.—Mrs. A. L. GARDNER, *National Chairman, Committee on Congress Publications*.

## 1942 DISTRIBUTION

During 1942 the Congress has prepared and distributed free to state branches the following publications and forms (the figures in parentheses indicate the number of pages):

<i>Publications</i>	<i>Number of Copies</i>
Bylaws (16) *	37,022
Changing Patterns in Group Living (128) .....	29
The Child in His Community (8) .....	1,780
Councils (28) .....	2,004
Defense Activities (12) .....	12,020
Findings (8) * .....	37,742
Founders Day (12) * .....	38,207
Freedom for Growth (128) .....	604
General Information (8) * .....	52,217
Guiding Principles (48) .....	12
High Schools (40) .....	3,345
How to Organize (24) .....	4,400
Our Public Schools (224) .....	68
Parent Education Fourth Year-book (224) .....	66
Parent-Teacher Exhibits (12) .....	1,970
The P.T.A. in Community Service (48) ..	37,022
Parent-Teacher Manual (256) .....	74,065
Parent-Teacher Publicity (16) .....	3,080
Parent-Teacher Publicity Handbook (24) .....	6,265
Parliamentary Procedures (16) * .....	37,022
Plans of Work (40) .....	4,137
Plateprints:*	
Choral Groups .....	37,622
Our P.T.A. Wartime Pledge .....	39,022
What Parent-Teacher Membership Means .....	42,822
Why a Congress P.T.A. .....	40,022
Policies and Procedures (16) .....	3,668
Proceedings—1942 (384) .....	2,552
Program Planning (48) .....	19,776
Projects and Purposes (48) .....	5,525
A Report of Progress (16) * .....	37,322
The Rural P.T.A. (16) .....	33
Rural Youth (24) .....	155
Schools of Instruction (12) .....	2,360
Study Group Techniques (24) * .....	37,122
Study Program Leaflets:*	
America Pitches In (6) .....	60,088
Babies in Wartime (6) .....	46,186
The Summer Round-Up of the Children (24) * .....	38,512
War Handbook (32) * .....	32,752
Wartime Service Packet * .....	37,022
Miscellaneous Promotion Circulars ..	198,895
National Congress Bulletin .....	380,958
(subscription copies)	

## Stickers, Forms, and Cards

Open House Window Stickers .....	163,600
Community School Lunch Project Score Card .....	8,389
Local Unit Remittance Statement .....	37,822
Local Unit Report Blank .....	37,647
Medical Record Form .....	274,510
Publications Announcement Sheet .....	5,000
Publications Order Blank .....	43,397
Summer Round-Up Registration Blank ..	39,135
Summer Round-Up Report Blank .....	7,785
War Activities Questionnaire .....	37,022
Membership Cards .....	3,521,980

Where the above figures appear low in comparison to the standard allotment dis-

## “SWAP CENTERS” FOR RUBBERS

**T**HE Government is once more asking schools to take a leading role in meeting wartime needs. “Swap Centers” or exchanges for rubber footwear and galoshes are the newest idea for rubber conservation. John W. Studebaker, U.S. Commissioner of Education, and Alvin C. Eurich, of the Office of Price Administration, are urging schools to set up such exchanges. Parent-teacher associations and local war councils can give important assistance.

The parent-teacher association council of Palo Alto, California, is already running a rubber exchange as part of its “wardrobe” program. School children are urged to turn in outgrown rubbers or overshoes in the fall. After being cleaned and sorted, the rubbers are redistributed to the children by the schools. P.T.A. funds are used to purchase extra pairs to meet special needs.

A group of war workers' children at East End Neighborhood House in Cleveland, Ohio, have their own rubber exchange. Any child who turns in his outgrown rubbers receives a receipt. This receipt plus five cents entitles him to another pair.

## SOCIAL HYGIENE IN WAR

**T**HE theme of Social Hygiene Day, sponsored by the American Social Hygiene Association and government agencies in this field on February 3, 1943, will be “Social Hygiene Takes Battle Stations.”

It is vitally important in the war effort and the peace to follow that every city and town become a “battle station” in the fight against venereal diseases and the conditions that favor their spread and in favor of wise programs of sex education.

A copy of the Social Hygiene Day announcement folder and a kit of program and publicity aids may be obtained from the Association, 1790 Broadway, New York City.

tributions, the publications supplied were intended only for use by state and national boards, or to give specific information to groups working on special projects.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Published monthly from August through May, bi-monthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.



## STUDY GROUP MATERIAL

**J**ANUARY, the traditional month of beginnings, is a good time to organize new activities to round out your local unit's program of service to members.

Our country needs well-informed citizens more urgently now than ever before. At the same time, wartime restrictions are tending to limit the scope and movement of community life. Do not these facts suggest an opportunity for parent-teacher associations to provide additional study groups to meet the new requirements of their neighborhoods?

Associations planning to expand their study group programs will discover topics and material to interest the new members — including, perhaps, more fathers and men teachers than usual — in a new National Congress publication, *Community Life in a Democracy*.

Community organization and betterment is always a popular P.T.A. topic, and this book has been prepared to meet the needs of groups making it their special study. Groups sponsored by Citizenship committees will find in the book much interesting material on the privileges and responsibilities of good citizenship. Special groups seeking to improve home-school relationships will glean helpful suggestions on public relations from it.

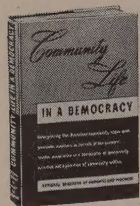
*Community Life in a Democracy* is packed with practical sense and usable information about community functions, problems, trends, and aims. Nineteen experts contribute interesting discussions of the home, school, church, library, welfare agency, and other institutions of community life.

Throughout the book, and especially in Mrs. Kletzer's chapter, parent-teacher responsibilities and opportunities for community betterment are emphasized.

*Community Life in a Democracy* is available from your state office or the National Congress at one dollar a copy.

### WAR HANDBOOK REFERENCES

Have you looked them over? There are many references to articles in the *National Parent-Teacher*. Some of the back issues mentioned we can supply at the regular single copy rate. We would suggest, however, that associations interested in drawing together the references listed ask subscribers for the back copies in question. We know we shall not have nearly enough back numbers here to take care of requests, and we are sure many subscribers who do not file their *National Parent-Teacher* copies will be glad to let the P.T.A. have them for reference use.



## MEMORY IN MARBLE

**U**NDER this title, the memorial to Mrs. Birney is written up in the January number of our official magazine. We call the presentation a "two-page spread with illustrations." There are two pictures of the memorial, one of the sundial with the inscription, one showing a number of the state stones on the plaza, and a picture of our Founder's great-granddaughter and namesake, Alice Birney Robert, unveiling the memorial. Many P.T.A.'s will want an extra copy of the January *National Parent-Teacher* in order to clip this section for their historical records. Single copies are 15 cents postpaid.

### War Changes Things for Children

A physician with actual wartime experience in areas under fire has written an article for the *National Parent-Teacher*. It deals with the mental hygiene of children in wartime. Dr. Geleerd stresses the importance of unbroken family life wherever it is at all possible. It is her conviction that children are able to stand great stress from the outside as long as they have a feeling of security. This article in the January issue is just one more reason why every association should have at least one subscription copy of the *National Parent-Teacher* on its P.T.A. bookshelf.

### Guard Duty

Women are replacing men as school guards in a certain Ohio area. They are doing a splendid job of it, too. Not a child has been injured on the way to or from school since they took over. This important P.T.A. wartime project is reported in detail in the January issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*.

### Are Yours In?

**T**HE Brackett P.T.A. of Arlington, Mass., has just forwarded 75 subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*. The Broadwater P.T.A. of Billings, Montana, has sent in 53. There are 90 subscribers to the national magazine in the Naval Avenue P.T.A. of Bremerton, Wash. From the Erie City Council of Pennsylvania has come an additional order for 229 subscriptions.

Has your P.T.A. sent in its order?

## UNAUTHORIZED USE OF OUR NAME

**I**T HAS come to our attention that in some communities magazine agents endeavoring to sell subscriptions are "falsely claiming to be backed by the state or national P.T.A." and are implying that those who do not subscribe will be placed on a black list. Better Business Bureaus in the towns affected are cooperating in bringing this situation to the public's attention through announcements in local papers. The *National Parent-Teacher*, official magazine of the country's 2,685,000 parent-teacher members, is the *only* national magazine published and sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The *National Parent-Teacher* is never sold by commercial agents. It is not promoted commercially or supported by any commercial or partisan interest. The use of the name of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers or of any of its state branches or local units in promoting the sale of any other magazine is absolutely unauthorized. Any person so approached is urged to get in touch at once with the local parent-teacher president, who will relay the information to the National Congress. Please read this notice at the next P.T.A. meeting.

MRS. WILLIAM KLETZER, *President*

### THE FIRST FIVE

Mrs. Lambert Groot, president of the May School P.T.A., Chicago, Ill., was the first person to respond to Mrs. Kletzer's request for an additional subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher*. The second response came from Mrs. D. S. Mohler, president of the Tilden P.T.A., Chicago, Ill.; the third from Mrs. D. S. Sample, president of the Long Beach P.T.A. of Michigan City, Ind.; the fourth from Mrs. Sam Edwards, president of the Peabody P.T.A., Milledgeville, Ga.; and the fifth from Mrs. Gus Prados, president of the Spring Hill P.T.A., Spring Hill, Tenn.

Let's make the response 100 per cent. This will insure a genuine contribution to the parent-teacher war program.